

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes
November 18, 2015

Present: Sheri Baron, Christine Carney (Chair), Ghanda DiFiglia, Mel Goldsipe, Sharon Grossman, Gary Horowitz, Yawa Degboe, Marlissa Briggett

Absent: Jorge Loayza, Nick Minton, William Logan

Guest: Gene Diaz, Chair of the Evaluation Team for the True Story Theater

A motion was made by Commissioner Baron and seconded by Commissioner Degboe to accept the October 2015 minutes as amended. Vote: 7-Yes and 1-Abstention

Chair Carney reported that there was no correspondence, incidents or complaints reported to or received by the Commission

Commission Vacancies Update: Chair Carney reported that the deadline for applicants to send their information to the Town Manager and the Town Moderator had been set for November 9, 2015 and to date no one has applied for the two Commission openings. Chair Carney will follow up with the Town Manager and the Town Moderator to have the deadline extended. Chair Carney will also write a short bio and testimony of what being part of the Commission means to her and will submit it for publication to the Diversity Task Group website.

LBGTQ Survey: Commissioner Goldsipe has been corresponding with Juli Brazile, Vision 2020, on drafting questions that relate to LBGTQ issues for the Vision 2020 survey that will be sent out with the town census in January. Commissioner Horowitz made a motion to allow Commissioner Goldsipe to make the final edits and changes to the Vision 2020 survey questions and the full AHRC LBGTQ survey. Commissioner Briggett seconded the motion and all present voted in the affirmative.

True Story Theater Collaboration: Commissioner DiFigila reported on the True Story Theater fundraising event. As part of the Living Brochure initiative the AHRC and some members of the True Story Theater will meet on December 1, 2015 from 7-9pm to engage in acting exercises in order for the AHRC to obtain a better understanding of the work the of True Story Theater and the Living Brochure program. The exercises will give the Commission a better understanding how the AHRC and True Story Theater will be working together over the next year and half. As part of the grant approval the AHRC and True Story Theater will be working together to present 3 events to the public. Ms. Diaz asked the Commission to consider several things with regards to the AHRC's involvement with True Story Theater. 1) Is there a specific benefit that the Commission would like to see from its involvement with TST? 2) Is this a good way to be more visible in the community? 3) Should the three events focus on one particular community? It was discussed that the goal would be for the AHRC to be more visible to the public. Commissioner Degboe is concerned that our website is lacking in information. This discussion will be a future agenda item.

Rapid Response Procedure Update: Commissioner Baron explained the flow of the response by the Rapid Response Coordination Team, the members of the Team and how the AHRC is role on the Team. Commissioner Baron will contact the clergy representatives and ask that they work on updating the faith communities' contacts and if they are responsible for contacting them if a need should arise. Commissioner Baron will also contact Chief Ryan and ask if a robo-call could be sent to each group identified on the contact lists.

Cultural Competency Training: Chair Carney contacted a former AHRC commissioner with regards to cultural competency training. The AHRC is contemplating having a basic training of a maximum of 4 hours and will invite other groups and Town official and employees to participate. The idea is to have training once a quarter with each training focusing on an area of competency. Chair Carney will also look into Trans 101 training for the AHRC with regards to the Trans and non-conforming communities.

Bylaw-Town Meeting Warrant: Chair Carney will follow up with Commission Logan and his meeting with the Town Counsel pertaining to the updated AHRC bylaws.

Sub-Committees: Schools: Commissioner Grossman reported that the joint AHRC and School Committee subcommittee will be meeting on Monday, November 23, 2015. Commissioner Grossman will also contact Dr. Janger, AHS Principal, and ask him about having a student representative on the AHRC.

Town Day Raffle: The AHRC held a free raffle on Town Day and the winners of the 4 gift certificates were chosen. Chair Carney will notify the winners.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:58PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Carney